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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

Not The Man

THE NEW YORK TIMES, which has always claimed to be independent, but which on all important subjects has been Democratic with Bourbon earnestness, thinks there is a growing thought among Republicans to nominate Ex-President Taft for president next time.

We do not believe that is a shrewd forecast. Mr. Taft is brainy enough, he is dead square, he is so far as intellect and experience go perfectly equipped, his integrity of purpose cannot be assailed; his patriotism is as broad as the republic, but the Republican party do not want him for president, at least not during the coming half dozen years. The first reason is he is not aggressive enough. He lacks what Colonel Roosevelt has too much of. When elected before, he declared that he would, as nearly as he could, continue the policy of his immediate predecessor. That made clear that he had surrendered a large part of his individuality to another, so much so that he was blind to the manifest faults of that predecessor. Again he failed in accomplishing some things which were expected of him. For instance, while the party and the country wanted a sensible tariff revision, and while he advocated it in his messages, he did no more.

Of course it is not a president's place to try to bulldoze congress, as Mr. Cleveland did and as President Wilson has done, but it is not out of place for an executive to impress with vigor upon individual senators and representatives what the country and the party expect of them and to help the leaders formulate measures that can be passed.

Mr. Lincoln, genial as Mr. Taft, could do that and could secure legislation up to the very point of trenching on the constitution.

Again, we believe that Mr. Taft, from his experience in Manila of the utter unreliability of the mongrel Spanish races, should have seen the situation in Mexico when the rebellion was first forced upon that land and should have put the machinery in motion to quell it in a month.

By the time the next presidential election is due, the whole country will see that the president to be elected should be aggressive enough to meet any emergency promptly, but at the same time there should be behind the aggressiveness a sagacity and firmness that would not permit any mistakes.

The president to be elected next year should be all around great, if such a one can be found. Brave enough to meet any crisis; alert enough to discern the tendency of any movement, sagacious enough to select the wisest methods, and with magnetism and patriotism enough to make his countrymen see as he sees, and back his every plan.

Selecting The Next Legislature

IT is not too soon to begin to think about the next legislature. For years its every meeting has been a matter of anxiety to the business men of Salt Lake, Weber and Summit counties.

The rurals—with some honorable exceptions—apparently come up obsessed with an idea that it is their duty "to cinch Salt Lake and Weber counties." Added to that this year, was an apparent determination to so change the constitution that the mines of the state could be turned over to assessors who would know no more about them or the significance of mining in its bearing on the other industries of the state than a renegade Piute Indian does of a 15-inch howitzer.

Under such conditions it becomes a duty for the men who supply most of the revenue of the state to adopt, if they can, a system of self protection. One way would be to call a great convention of all the people of these three counties and prepare a pledge or pledges for party nominating conventions to adopt, and see that each candidate nominated on all the tickets promises to carry out the pledge or pledges.

One pledge should be that if any measure is introduced, the manifest purpose of which is to further rob these counties for the benefit of the outside counties, they will, regardless of party affiliations, oppose and vote against it.

Another pledge should be to oppose any direct or indirect blows aimed at any great and useful industry of the state, come it from whatever source it may. Men thus pledged would feel more their official responsibilities to their constituents; they would at the same time have more courage to work, knowing that the best men of the state were behind them. It is time that the meeting of the legislature should be no longer dreaded.

Distrusting Japan

WHEN the present European war shall have died of exhaustion, the world's attention will next be called to the eastern coast of Asia. Since before her war with Russia, Japan has been dreaming of being to Asia what Great Britain was so long to Europe—the dominant power. Indeed she has not stopped at that. Her ambition has marked out for her, not only the trade of the Pacific, but the virtual sovereignty of China. Her war with Russia taught her a few things, and her present idea is to give Mongolia to Russia, the great central valley to Great Britain, leave France in possession of her portion of the great empire, and take for herself the rest of the vast country.

With the settlement of the European war, she will not be slow to announce her intentions.

She will know that Great Britain and Russia, while not openly endorsing her program, will not oppose it, and her attitude toward the United States will be in all outward ways most friendly. She will say: "Why certainly, we acknowledge our promise that the open door to China must never be closed," but she will by that time, by her demands on China, hold that she has con-

cessions from China which will in effect give her the industrial and commercial control there which of course she cannot be expected to surrender.

Then some real statesmanship, some real courage and sagacity will be needed in Washington. It will be a case where "watchful waiting" will not do.

It will have to be decided then whether the United States is to be a world power or a country like Switzerland, only not surrounded by mountains, but crouching behind her own oceans and begging to be let alone.

That is, unless the belligerents in Europe finally succeed in involving our country in their war.

A Great Railroad

THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD has received the Harriman gold medal for the best record of any American steam railway company for the year ending June 30th of last year, in the prevention of accidents and in individual hygiene as it affects the public and its own employees.

Not one passenger has been killed in a train accident on that road in four years. In that time the passengers it has carried number twice as many as the entire population of the United States. The road has operated 3,000,000 trains, day and night, in all kinds of weather. The means it employs to prevent accidents resulted last year in 105 less killed and 1,063 fewer hurt.

That is a wonderful showing, but that road has some advantages over any other road in America. It has been in operation four score years. It has no heavy grades, few light ones and fewer curves than any other road of the same length. It has everywhere four and in many places six tracks. It has been in operation so long that there is not one weak spot in its roadbed. Its revenues are so great that it can make any improvement it pleases without regard to cost.

The route it follows is the same one which Governor DeWitt Clinton, in the long ago, when urging the building of the old Erie canal, declared was marked out by God Almighty over which to make a pathway to connect the east with the west.

But despite these natural advantages the showing it makes of care, forethought, efficiency and never-ending watchfulness of every detail is a wonderful one, and fully entitles it to the honor it has received. To ride on one of its through trains is like counting the pulse-beats of eternity.

How Wars Will Be Stopped

ARE the instruments of destruction which are being invented going to make war impossible?

The work of the Germans in Belgium and of the British and French fleets in the Dardanelles, shows that modern fortresses are practically worthless against modern guns, while in the